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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,054	07/23/2001	Mayumi Tomikawa	522.1921D	4839

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EXAMINER

MORAN, MARJORIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,054

Applicant(s)

TOMIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Marjorie A. Moran

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/7/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11, 21 and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11, 21 and 24-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/28/05 has been entered. The amendment filed 2/7/06 has also been entered. Claims 5-11, 21, 24-27 are pending. All rejections and objections not reiterated below are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5-11, 21, 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 25 recite a step of generating a combination of correspondences between two point sets by generating a combination based on minimized rmsd values between the point sets. Claims 5 and 25 also recite, in a subsequent step, calculating an rmsd between elements belonging to first and second point sets. It is unclear if these are intended to be two different steps of calculating rmsd between the point sets, or if one is intended to further limit the other. One skilled in the art would normally

Art Unit: 1631

calculate rmsd between point sets BEFORE minimizing the distances, therefore if one step is intended to minimize rmsd values previously calculated for the same point sets, then the steps are recited out of order in the claim. However, if the steps are intended to be separate calculations, wherein one calculates rmsd between (larger) point sets and the other is directed to calculating rmsd between elements of those point sets; i.e. between subsets of each larger set, to thus refine the combination of correspondence, then this is not clearly reflected in the claim.

Claims 5, 21 and 25 recite setting a predetermined threshold value, but fail to recite what the threshold value represents (i.e. a threshold for WHAT?). Claims 5, 21 and 25 also recite pruning a retrieval path. However, as no retrieval path is previously calculated, defined, described, predicted, etc., it is unclear what is being pruned.

Claims 5, 21 and 25 recite the term "candidate" twice in the second paragraph, but nowhere recite what a point is intended to be a candidate FOR. Claims 5, 21 and 25 further recite that a point is a candidate if an attribute of an element of the *first point set* includes a particular property that coincides with an attribute of an element of *the first point set*. As an attribute of an element would be expected to coincide with that same attribute, this limitation is nonsensical. For all of these reasons, claims 5, 21 and 25 are indefinite.

Claims 5 and 21 recite refining elements of point sets "based on" an attribute of elements of the two point sets, but fails to recite what parameters are required and/or applied to achieve the refinement; i.e. it is unclear what is to be eliminated/kept in the refining step.

Claims 5, 21 and 25, each in the penultimate paragraph, recite determining...based on,..and minimizing rmsd... It is unclear if applicant intends an active method step of minimizing rmsd or intends determining (similar portions) based on . **minimized** rmsd. It is further unclear what relationship and/or parameters for determining is intended by the term "based on".

Claims 6-11 and 24 recite the phrase "the condition" which lacks antecedent basis in the claims. Further, as parent claim 5 has been amended to remove the term "condition", therefore it is unclear what further limitation of claim 5 is intended.

Claim 21 recites the phrase "the condition" in line 14 which lacks antecedent basis in the claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marjorie A. Moran whose telephone number is (571) 272-0720. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon,Wed: 7-1:30; Tue,Thur: 7:30-6; Fri 7-3:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on (571)272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1631

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marjorie A. Moran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631

Marjorie A. Moran
5/1/06